

## राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के स्पेशल मानीटर ने किया जेल का निरीक्षण

गुरुग्राम: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार  
आयोग के स्पेशल मानीटर बालकृष्ण  
गोयल ने बृहस्पतिवार को जिला  
कारागार का निरीक्षण किया। उन्होंने  
कारागार में महिला और पुरुष बंदियों  
का हालचाल जानने के साथ ही उनसे  
जेल में दी जा रही सुविधाओं और  
जेल प्रशासन के व्यवहार के बारे में  
जाना। गोयल ने रसोई गृह का  
निरीक्षण कर कारागार में उपलब्ध  
कराए जा रहे भोजन के बारे में भी  
जानकारी हासिल की। निरीक्षण के  
दौरान स्पेशल मानीटर ने सभी  
कैदियों के स्वास्थ्य की नियमित जांच  
करने के निर्देश दिए। इस दौरान  
उन्होंने सोहना खंड के गांव मंडावर में  
स्थित वृद्धाश्रम का दौरा कर वहां दी  
जा रही सेवाओं व सुविधाओं का  
जायजा लिया। वृद्धाश्रम संचालन से  
जुड़े पदाधिकारियों से गोयल ने कहा  
कि ये वे लोग हैं, जिनको उनके  
परिवार वालों ने स्वीकारा नहीं है।  
इस दौरान किशोर न्याय बोर्ड के  
सदस्य रंजीत सिंह, पीओ निशा  
सेनी, सीडब्ल्यूसी सदस्य उषा  
सोलंकी व उपासना सचदेव एवं  
सीडीपीओ मुनेश मौजूद रहे। (जन्त)

# NHRC seeks report on journalist's detention

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 3: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report regarding the detention of a digital news portal journalist by Guwahati Police on March 25.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Assam, seeking a detailed report on the matter within four weeks.

The journalist was called to the Panbazar Police Station and detained after covering a protest outside the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd.

"According to the report, the protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into alleged financial irregularities in the bank's management. The journalist had also questioned the bank's managing director on these allegations before being detained. However, no official reason was cited for the action taken against him," an official statement said.

The NHRC has observed that if the media report is accurate, it raises concerns about a violation of the journalist's human rights.

## NHRC intervenes in Assam journalist's arrest

### Commission seeks report from police chief

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**GUWAHATI:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the arrest of journalist Dilwar Hussain Mozumdar and has issued a notice to Assam's Director General of Police (DGP), demanding a detailed report within four weeks.

Mozumdar, a reporter for The Cross Current and assistant gen-

eral secretary of the Guwahati Press Club, was detained while covering a protest outside the Assam State Cooperative Apex Bank in Guwahati on March 25. The demonstration called for an investigation into alleged financial irregularities at the bank.

According to reports, Mozumdar was taken into custody at Panibazar police station after questioning the bank's managing director about the alleged mismanagement of funds. However, authorities did not provide any specific reason for his detention.

"The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, Pg 5

## NHRC intervenes in Assam journalist's arrest

raise the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights," the NHRC said in an official release.

Journalist associations and civil rights groups have condemned the incident, calling it an attack on press freedom. Many have urged authorities to

uphold journalists' rights and ensure accountability in cases of wrongful detention.

The NHRC's intervention signals growing concerns over press freedom in the region, with watchdogs closely monitoring the case for further developments.



# पत्रकार दिलवर हुसैन मजूमदार की गिरफ्तारी के खिलाफ राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग में मामला दर्ज

## डीजीपी को नोटिस, चार हफ्तों में रिपोर्ट जमा करने का दिया निर्देश

**पूर्वांचल प्रहरी क्राइम रिपोर्टर गुवाहाटी:** वरिष्ठ पत्रकार तथा गुवाहाटी प्रेस क्लब के सहायक महासचिव दिलवर हुसैन मजूमदार को गत 25 मार्च को हुई गिरफ्तारी को लेकर लेकर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग में एक मामला दर्ज किया है। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने पत्रकार दिलवर हुसैन मजूमदार की गिरफ्तारी को गैर-कानूनी बताया तथा बताया तथा इस पर एक मामला दर्ज किया। वहीं आयोग ने दर्ज मामले के आधार पर असम के डीजीपी को एक नोटिस भेज तथा अगले चार हफ्तों के भीतर इस पर अपनी एक रिपोर्ट जमा करने के सख्त निर्देश दिए हैं। फिलहाल मामले को लेकर आगे की कार्रवाई जारी है। बताते चलें कि गत 25 मार्च की रात को एपेक्स बैंक के एक सुरक्षाकर्मी के साथ को लेकर गाली-गलौज करने के आरोप में पत्रकार दिलवर हुसैन मजूमदार के खिलाफ 110/25 पंजीकृत एक मामला दर्ज कर भारतीय न्याय संहिता (बीएनएस) की धारा 351(2) व अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति (अत्याचार

निवारण अधिनियम 1989 की धारा 3(1)(आर) के तहत गिरफ्तार किया गया था। घटना के बाद दिलवर को गत 26 मार्च को अतिरिक्त मुख्य न्यायिक दंडाधिकारी की अदालत ने उन्हे जमानत पर रिहा कर दिया। हालांकि रिहाई से पूर्व ही दिलवर हुसैन के खिलाफ पान बाजार पुलिस 111/2025 पंजीकृत दूसरा मामला दर्ज किया तथा भारतीय न्याय अधिनियम (बीएनएस) की धारा 329/324(4)/351 (2)/309 (4)/115 के तहत मामला दर्ज कर लोखरा स्थित केंद्रीय कारागार से ही गिरफ्तार कर लिया। वहीं दिलवर के इस मामले पर पेशी के दौरान ही गत शुक्रवार को अदालत में पुनः दिलवर को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। हालांकि इस मामले में भी अदालत में पेशी के बाद उन्हे जमानत पर रिहा कर दिया गया। इस बीच करीब 4 बजे पान बाजार पुलिस की एक टीम दिलवर हुसैन मजूमदार को साथ लेकर नगर के घोड़ामारा के प्रोगन्योतिश हाउसिंग कम्प्लेक्स स्थित उनके आवास में छापेमारी की गई। इस दौरान घंटों की तलाशी के बाद पुलिस ने दिलवर के घर से

53 दस्तावेज जब्त किए, जिनमें उनके व्यवसाय, उनके डंपर आदि से जुड़े कागजात व कुछ आईडी कार्ड शामिल हैं। यही नहीं पुलिस ने दिलवर को लेकर गणेशगुड़ी के भृगु मार्केट स्थित उनके व्यवसायिक प्रतिष्ठान पर भी छापेमारी की। वहीं इस बीच आज होजाई जिले के डबका में पुलिस ने एस-01-एलसी-2666 व एस-02-डीसी-0766 पंजीकृत दो डंपर जब्त किए हैं। पुलिस की मानें तो इनमें से एक डंपर के चालक का ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस नहीं था, जिसके लिए 10 हजार तथा दूसरे डंपर के फिटनेस का अवधि समाप्त हो चुकी थी जिसके लिए सात हजार रूपए जुमाना लगाकर दोनों डंपरों को पुलिस ने जब्त किया। उल्लेखनीय है कि इसी बीच आज शुक्रवार की शाम को दिलवर की जमानत के बाद पुलिस ने कल शनिवार को उनके रिहाई की उम्मीद जताई है। परंतु यह तभी संभव है जब उन पर तीसरा मामला दर्ज नहीं किया जाता। फिलहाल इस पूरे मामले पर अब भी रहस्य बरकरार है। आने वाला समय ही इन रहस्यों पर से पर्दा उठा सकता है।

**Assam; NHRC taken cognizance of detention of a journalist covering the protest news in Guwahati.**

<https://globalgreenews.com/2025/04/03/assam-nhrc-taken-cognizance-of-detention-of-a-journalist-covering-the-protest-news-in-guwahati/>

NHRC, India takes suo motu cognizance of the reported detention of a journalist covering a protest over alleged financial irregularities in a bank in Guwahati, Assam

Issues notice to the Director General of Police, Assam, calling for a detailed report within four weeks

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report that on 25th March, 2025 in Guwahati, a journalist of a digital news portal was called at Panbazar police and detained after a dharna in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd, which he had gone to cover. Reportedly, the journalist had questioned the Managing Director of the bank on the alleged financial irregularities, though no reason was cited for his detention.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights. Therefore, it has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Government of Assam, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

According to the media report, carried on 25th March, 2025, the protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities in the management of the bank and strict action against those responsible.

## **Assam: Human Rights Commission seeks DGP's report on Journalist detention**

<https://nenow.in/north-east-news/assam/assam-human-rights-commission-seeks-dgps-report-on-journalist-detention.html>

Guwahati: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India has taken a suo motu cognisance into the alleged detention of a journalist in Guwahati, Assam, who was covering a protest related to financial irregularities at the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd.

The NHRC stated that these allegations if proven true, constitute a potential violation of the journalist's fundamental human rights.

## Human Rights Body Issues Notice to Assam Police Over Journalist's Arrest

Multiple cases were filed against Dilwar Hussain Mozumder; he was granted bail in all the cases

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/human-rights-body-issues-notice-to-assam-police-over-journalist-dilwar-hussain-mozumder-arrest-8080318>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sent notice to the Assam Police chief seeking a report on the alleged detention of a journalist while doing his work.

The NHRC took up the matter on its own. On March 25, news website The Cross Current's chief reporter Dilwar Hussain Mozumder was detained by the police after he questioned the managing director of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank over alleged financial irregularities.

No reason was cited for his detention. The Press Club of India, the Gauhati Press Club, and other media associations strongly criticised the detention, which was based on a complaint filed by the bank's top official D Saikia.

The NHRC said if the media reports of Mr Mozumder's detention were true, then they raised the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights. It sent notice to Assam Police Director General Harmit Singh, seeking a report within four weeks.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said people working for websites are not recognised as journalists under the state government's rules.

Multiple cases were filed against Mr Mozumder. He was granted bail in all the cases. The journalist was arrested under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for allegedly abusing a bank guard.

According to the police, the complainant alleged the journalist "unlawfully entered the first floor of the head office of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd... and attempted to steal valuable bank documents. When the bank employees noticed the accused, they raised an alarm, causing the accused to flee the scene. During the incident, the accused disturbed the bank's operations, threatened the employees, and made caste-based derogatory remarks towards the security guard, who belongs to the ST community."

"It has come to my notice that some media houses have reported the arrest of a journalist by Assam Police. I would like to clarify that Assam Police has not arrested any journalist in recent times," Mr Sarma said in a post on X.

"He works for a portal, and we do not recognise people working for portals as journalists... I believe he is just an individual, and there is speculation he is a businessman. He owns dumpers and works as a part-time journalist for a portal. The portal in question is a politician promoted," Mr Sarma said.

## **Human rights commission takes suo motu cognisance of journalist's detention in Assam, seeks report from DGP**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India has taken suo motu cognisance regarding the detention of a journalist in Guwahati, Assam, while covering a protest against alleged financial irregularities at Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd.

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/human-rights-commission-takes-suo-motu-cognisance-of-journalists-detention-in-assam-seeks-report-from-dgp-1193635-2025-04-03>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India has taken suo motu cognisance regarding the detention of a journalist in Guwahati, Assam, while covering a protest against alleged financial irregularities at Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd.

According to reports, on March 25, 2025, a journalist from a digital news portal was summoned to Panbazar Police Station and subsequently detained. The journalist had reportedly questioned the bank's Managing Director on the alleged financial discrepancies before being taken into custody. No official reason for the detention was cited.

The NHRC has noted that if the allegations are accurate, they indicate a potential violation of the journalist's human rights. Consequently, the Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP), Assam, seeking a detailed report within four weeks.

The earlier media report also highlighted that the protesters were demanding a high-level investigation into the financial mismanagement at the bank and urging strict action against those responsible.



## **National Human Rights Commission takes cognisance of Assam journalist's detention**

The journalist was booked in two cases after he covered a protest against a bank in which Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is a director.

Yesterday · 08:49 pm

<https://scroll.in/latest/1080977/national-human-rights-commission-takes-cognisance-of-assam-journalists-detention>

The National Human Rights Commission on Thursday took suo moto cognisance of the detention of journalist Dilwar Hussain Mozumder in Assam after he covered a protest against a bank – which is linked to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma – over alleged financial irregularities.

The human rights body said if Mozumder's reporting was accurate, his detention was a potential violation of human rights. The commission said it had issued notice to Assam's director general of police and the state government, seeking a detailed report in four weeks. It also noted that no reason was provided for Mozumder's detention.

Mozumder, who works with digital news outlet The CrossCurrent, was arrested on March 25 after he sought to ask questions to Dombaru Saikia, the managing director of the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, regarding alleged financial irregularities. Earlier that day, the Jatiya Yuva Shakti, the youth wing of the Assam Jatiya Parishad, had held a protest against the alleged irregularities.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is a director of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank and Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Biswajit Phukan is its chairman.

First, Mozumder was arrested on charges of criminal intimidation in a case filed by a security guard at the bank, as well as under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act. He was granted bail in this case the next evening.

Despite the bail, Mozumder was taken to the Pan Bazar police station and arrested in connection with a second case filed by Saikia, who claimed that the journalist had trespassed onto the first floor of the office on March 25 and attempted to take away documents.

Mozumder fled after the bank staff raised an alarm, Saikia claimed. "During the incident, the accused disturbed the bank's operations, threatened the employees and made caste-based derogatory remarks towards the security guard," he alleged.

Mozumder was only released from jail on March 29. The following day, his elder brother Tayabur Rahman Mozumder was arrested in an unrelated case.

Sarma said last week that the government did not consider Mozumder as a journalist as he worked with a digital news portal. The chief minister added that he was not arrested in matters related to his reporting.

## **NHRC intervenes in Assam journalist's arrest, seeks report from police chief**

<https://kashlem.com/nhrc-intervenes-in-assam-journalists-arrest-seeks-report-from-police-chief/>

Guwahati, April 3: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the arrest of journalist Dilwar Hussain Mozumdar and has issued a notice to Assam's Director General of Police (DGP), demanding a detailed report within four weeks.

Mozumdar, a reporter for The Cross Current and assistant general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club, was detained while covering a protest outside the Assam State Cooperative Apex Bank in Guwahati on March 25. The demonstration called for an investigation into alleged financial irregularities at the bank.

According to reports, Mozumdar was taken into custody at Panbazar police station after questioning the bank's managing director about the alleged mismanagement of funds. However, authorities did not provide any specific reason for his detention.

"The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights," the NHRC said in an official release.

Journalist associations and civil rights groups have condemned the incident, calling it an attack on press freedom. Many have urged authorities to uphold journalists' rights and ensure accountability in cases of wrongful detention.

The NHRC's intervention signals growing concerns over press freedom in the region, with watchdogs closely monitoring the case for further developments.

## **NHRC issues notice to Assam Govt. over detention of journalist**

Human rights body issues notice to Assam Director General of Police calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks

Updated - April 04, 2025 08:33 am IST - NEW DELHI

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/assam/nhrc-issues-notice-to-assam-govt-over-detention-of-journalist/article69408305.ece>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday (April 3, 2025) issued a notice to the Assam government over the detention of a journalist covering a protest over alleged financial irregularities in a bank in Guwahati.

According to reports, the journalist, employed with a digital news portal, was detained after he went to cover a protest happening in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd.

The protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into alleged financial irregularities in the management of the bank and strict action against those responsible for it. To follow up on the allegations of the protestors, the journalist allegedly questioned the Managing Director of the bank.

The reports suggested that no reason was cited for his detention.

Observing that the detention raises the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights, it issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Government of Assam, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

## **NHRC review facilities at mental hospital**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/nhrc-review-facilities-at-mental-hospital-101743705011152.html>

As per officials, Hon'ble Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, a member of NHRC, visited the RMH on Thursday morning and took a thorough review for over three hours

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) visited the Regional Mental Hospital (RMH), Yerawada, on Thursday and reviewed the healthcare services and facilities provided to inmates and patients at the hospital. The commission also gave suggestions to improve the healthcare services at the hospital, said the officials.

As per officials, Hon'ble Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, a member of NHRC, visited the RMH on Thursday morning and took a thorough review for over three hours. Hon'ble member NHRC is of the status and privilege of sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India, said the officials.

It is to be noted that RMH last month was under the scanner, and a major embezzlement of government funds was allegedly exposed at the facility following a financial audit conducted by a committee appointed by the Public Health Department. The committee, in its report, has stated violations of human rights and the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 at RMH.

The NHRC member started the visit from the female wards and later visited the administrative office. Visits were done to the male wards, kitchen, outpatient department, telemedicine, and male wards. Besides, this availability of medicines and the MPJAY scheme review was taken, said the officials.

Dr Srinivas Kolod, the medical superintendent of RMH, stated that the NHRC spoke with patients and their relatives to gather feedback on the food and healthcare services provided at the hospital.

"The NHRC offered us valuable suggestions that we will implement. These changes will enhance our services and facilities for patients and inmates," he said.

Dr Kolod added, "The NHRC has recommended that we provide services with greater compassion. They suggested that we actively follow up with discharged patients. While it is important to treat patients, it is equally crucial to assess how they are faring in society and their communities after discharge."

## **NHRC Seeks Report From Assam Police On Journalist's Arrest In Guwahati**

<https://guwahatiplus.com/guwahati/nhrc-seeks-report-from-assam-police-on-journalists-arrest-in-guwahati>

GUWAHATI: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the arrest of journalist Dilwar Hussain Mozumder covering a protest in Guwahati, Assam. In its notice, the commission has sought a detailed report from the Director General of Police, Assam, within four weeks.

The incident occurred on March 25, when Mozumder was detained by Pan Bazar police after covering a dharna outside the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. Protestors, along with Mozumder, had gathered to demand a high-level inquiry into alleged financial irregularities in the bank's management and strict action against those responsible.

The journalist had further questioned the bank's managing director about the alleged irregularities. However, according to the NHRC's notice, no official reason was cited for his detention.

It further noted that if the media reports are accurate, the incident has raised concerns regarding the violation of the journalist's human rights.

Therefore, the commission has sought a comprehensive report from the Assam Police regarding the circumstances leading to the journalist's detention.

## **NHRC Seeks Report on Dilwar Hussain Mozumder Over Bank Protest Coverage**

<https://pragnews.com/national/nhrc-dilwar-protest>

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights.

Digital Desk: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) India has taken the suo motu cognizance of the arrest of journalist Dilwar Hussain Mozumdar during his coverage of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd protest for financial irregularities that took place at Guwahati on 25th March 2025.

A media report stated that the journalist of a digital news portal was called to the Panbazar Police Station and detained after writing about the bank protests outside the building. The allegations claim the journalist questioned the bank's Managing Director regarding banking mismanagement. However, officials did not provide any information regarding his arrest.

The NHRC observed that if the claims presented in news reports are true in any way, then it raises serious concerns regarding the violation of both human rights and pre press freedom protections for the journalist. The Commission has requested a four-week detailed report from the Director General of Police (DGP) Assam about the incident.

The protest in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd was organized to demand both a financial mismanagement inspection through a high-level investigation and severe consequences for responsible personnel.

Press freedom functions as an essential democratic foundation, which makes the NHRC's intervention emphasize the requirement to protect journalists from unwanted harassment or imprisonment while performing their duties.



## **NHRC Seeks Report on Journalist's Detention in Guwahati**

The journalist was reportedly held after covering a dharna in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd, where he had questioned the bank's Managing Director over alleged financial irregularities.

<https://www.pratidintime.com/latest-assam-news-breaking-news-assam/nhrc-seeks-report-on-journalists-detention-in-guwahati-8922014>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report regarding the detention of a digital news portal journalist Dilwar Hussain Mazumdar by Panbazar police in Guwahati.

The journalist was reportedly held after covering a dharna in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd, where he had questioned the bank's Managing Director over alleged financial irregularities. However, no reason was cited for his detention.

The NHRC has observed that the incident, if true, raises concerns about the violation of the journalist's human rights. Consequently, the Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP), Assam, seeking a detailed report on the matter within four weeks.

According to the media report published on March 25, the protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities in the bank's management and strict action against those responsible.

## **NHRC Seeks Report on Journalist Dilwar Hussain Mazumdar's Detention in Assam**

<https://dy365.in/assam/nhrc-seeks-report-on-journalist-dilwar-hussain-mazumdar%E2%80%99s-detention-in-assam-16283>

April 3, 2025: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of reports regarding the detention of journalist Dilwar Hussain Mazumdar in Guwahati, Assam. On March 25, 2025, Mazumdar, a senior journalist with The CrossCurrent and Assistant General Secretary of the Guwahati Press Club, was detained by Panbazar police after covering a protest against alleged financial irregularities at the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd.

According to reports, the journalist questioned the bank's Managing Director, Dambaru Saikia, about the alleged financial mismanagement. He was then invited inside the bank premises, where he claimed to have been intimidated, and his phone was forcibly wiped of video footage. Other journalists were also allegedly pressured to delete their recordings. When Mazumdar went to the Panbazar police station to file a complaint, he was detained for several hours without any clear explanation. Later that night, he was arrested under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015.

The NHRC has stated that these allegations, if true, amount to a violation of the journalist's human rights and press freedom. It has issued a notice to the Assam Director General of Police, seeking a detailed report on the incident within four weeks.

The journalist's arrest had drawn widespread condemnation from media organizations and political parties. The Editors Guild of India had called for the Assam administration to clarify the circumstances surrounding the detention and ensure that journalists can perform their duties without intimidation. The Press Club of India also condemned the arrest, citing it as an infringement on press freedom, and urged the state government to prevent the misuse of legal provisions against journalists.

This case has reignited concerns about press freedom in India, highlighting the role of human rights bodies in upholding democratic values and ensuring that journalists can report without fear of persecution.



## **NHRC seeks report on journalist's detention in Guwahati**

By Hub Network -April 3, 202501089

<https://hubnetwork.in/nhrc-seeks-report-on-journalists-detention-in-guwahati/>

Guwahati, April 3: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Assam, seeking a detailed report within four weeks regarding the detention of a journalist in Guwahati.

The journalist, working for a digital news portal, was reportedly called to the Panbazar police station and detained on March 25 after covering a protest outside the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. The protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into alleged financial irregularities at the bank and action against those responsible.

According to media reports, the journalist had questioned the bank's Managing Director regarding the allegations before being detained. However, no official reason was cited for his detention.

The NHRC observed that if the report is accurate, it raises concerns over the violation of the journalist's human rights. The Commission has taken suo motu cognizance of the matter and sought an explanation from the state police.

## **NHRC take suo motu cognisance of Assam journalist's detention**

PTI Updated: April 03, 2025 21:23 IST

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2025/04/03/cal35-as-journalist-nhrc.html>

Guwahati, Apr 3 (PTI) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that a journalist of a digital news portal was detained after a dharna before a bank here which he had gone to cover and issued notice to Assam Director General of Police for a detailed report within four weeks, an official release said on Thursday.

The NHRC took cognisance of a media report that on 25th March, 2025 in Guwahati, a journalist of a digital news portal was called at Panbazar police and detained after a dharna in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd, which he had gone to cover.

Reportedly, the journalist had questioned the Managing Director of the bank on the alleged financial irregularities, though no reason was cited for his detention.

The Commission observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raises the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights.

Therefore, it has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Government of Assam, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks, the release said

According to the media report, carried on 25th March, 2025, the protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities in the management of the bank and strict action against those responsible.

The Chief Reporter of the digital portal 'The Crosscurrent' Dilwar Hussain Mozumder was arrested at Midnight of March 25 after being detained for several hours in the police station but was granted bail the next.

He was, however, re-arrested in connection with another case filed by bank's Managing Director for allegedly trying to steal bank documents the next day after the bail surety for the case was submitted

A Guwahati court granted him bail in the second case on March 28 and he was released the next day.

## **NHRC take suo motu cognisance of Assam journalist's detention**

PTI |

Apr 03, 2025 09:22 PM IST

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/nhrc-take-suo-motu-cognisance-of-assam-journalist-s-detention-101743695576551.html>

Guwahati, The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that a journalist of a digital news portal was detained after a dharna before a bank here which he had gone to cover and issued notice to Assam Director General of Police for a detailed report within four weeks, an official release said on Thursday.

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A Guwahati court granted him bail in the second case on March 28 and he was released the next day.

## **NHRC Take Suo Motu Cognisance of Assam Journalist's Detention**

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-nhrc-take-suo-motu-cognisance-of-assam-journalists-detention-6756627.html>

Get latest articles and stories on India at LatestLY. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that a journalist of a digital news portal was detained after a dharna before a bank here which he had gone to cover and issued notice to Assam Director General of Police for a detailed report within four weeks, an official release said on Thursday.

India News | NHRC Take Suo Motu Cognisance of Assam Journalist's Detention

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A Guwahati court granted him bail in the second case on March 28 and he was released the next day.

## **NHRC takes cognisance of journalist detained after he went to cover a dharna in Guwahati**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/nhrc-takes-cognisance-of-journalist-detained-after-a-dharna-in-guwahati/articleshow/119948140.cms?from=mdr>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that on 25th March 2025 in Guwahati, a journalist of a digital news portal was called at Panbazar police and detained after a dharna in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd, which he had gone to cover.

Reportedly, the journalist had questioned the Managing Director of the bank on the alleged financial irregularities, though no reason was cited for his detention.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights. Therefore, it has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Government of Assam, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

NHRC stated that according to the media report the protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities in the management of the bank and strict action against those responsible. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said individuals working for online portals are not recognized as journalists under the state government's rules.

Multiple cases were slapped on Dilwar Hussain and he got bail in the cases.

The journalist from Guwahati based news portal was arrested under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for allegedly abusing a guard of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank.

Sarma had stated in X, "It has come to my notice that some media houses have reported the arrest of a journalist by Assam Police. I would like to clarify that Assam Police has not arrested any journalist in recent times".

Sarma categorically stated that the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) does not officially recognize journalists from online news portals.

"He works for a portal, and we do not recognize people working for portals as journalists. In Assam, no individual employed by a portal is recognised as a journalist. I believe he is just an individual, and there are speculations that he is a businessman. He owns dumpers and operates as a part-time journalist for a portal. The portal in question is a politician promoted".

He questioned "How will we know whether he went to the bank for news coverage or for other purposes? How will other journalists claim he was there as a journalist."

Sarma asked, "If you all provide me with a written statement affirming that he is a journalist and take full responsibility, I will release him right now," Sarma stated.

Mozumder is also assistant general secretary of the Gauhati Press Club. Journalists in Guwahati staged a protest at the Guwahati Press Club against Mozumdar's arrest, calling it an attack on press freedom. There were protests in different places of Assam demanding his release.

## **NHRC Takes Suo Motu Cognizance Of Scribe's Detention In Assam**

The apex human rights has issued a notice to the State's DGP, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

<https://www.etvbharat.com/en/!state/nhrc-takes-suo-motu-cognizance-of-scribes-detention-in-assam-enn25040306807>

Guwahati: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report on detention of a journalist who had gone to cover a dharna in front of Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd building on March 25.

The NHRC has also issued a notice to the State's Director General of Police, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks. "...that on 25th March, 2025 in Guwahati, a journalist of a digital news portal was called at Pan Bazaar police and detained after a dharna in front of the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd, which he had gone to cover. Reportedly, the journalist had questioned the Managing Director of the bank on the alleged financial irregularities, though no reason was cited for his detention," said a statement issued by the NHRC.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise the issue of violation of the journalist's human rights. "Therefore, it has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Government of Assam, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks," the NHRC statement said. Quoting the media reports, the NHRC statement said that the media report, carried on March 25, 2025, the protestors were demanding a high-level inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities in the management of the bank and strict action against those responsible.

Thousands of journalists in Assam protested on March 26 following the Assam police's move to arrest Guwahati-based journalist Dilowar Hussain. Hussain was arrested by the police in Guwahati on Tuesday for asking questions on an ongoing scam in the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Limited to its Managing Director.

Mazumdar went to the bank to cover a protest programme organised by Jatiya Yuba Shakti. Later on Tuesday evening he was summoned by the Panbazar police station in Guwahati and he was arrested after midnight. He worked for a digital news portal "Cross Current", which had remained vocal against the ruling BJP government in Assam on different issues.

The report provided by the police said that Hussain was nabbed under different sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including those pertaining to criminal intimidation or the act of threatening someone to harm them, and relevant sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The report said that Mozumdar's offence is cognisable and non-bailable as per the provisions of the BNS and the SC/ST Act, leading to his immediate arrest.

## 'Not much hope from Supreme Court on Waqf Bill': AIMIM leader says judges want 'good posts' after retirement

TIMESOFINDIA.COM | Apr 3, 2025, 08.40 PM IST

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/no-hope-from-supreme-court-on-waqf-bill-aimim-leader-says-judges-want-good-posts-after-retirement/articleshow/119948120.cms>

'Not much hope from Supreme Court on Waqf Bill': AIMIM leader says judges want 'good posts' after retirement

NEW DELHI: Senior All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Imtiaz Jaleel on Thursday declared his party's intention to protest the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the streets and challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court, but added there was not "much hope" from the apex court. Also Read: AIMIM chief Owaisi tears Waqf Bill in Lok Sabha

"Now that the bill is passed, we will fight one fight on the road and another in the Supreme Court. But we don't have much hope from the Supreme Court," Jaleel, the AIMIM's Maharashtra unit chief, said.

"If there are judges who want to be NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) chairman or want a Rajya Sabha seat after retirement, then there is going to be no justice. Under PM Modi's rule, there are a lot of judges who go and sit next to PM Modi as soon as they retire and get good posts," he explained.

Jaleel also targeted Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar, chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, whose Telugu Desam Party and Janata Dal (United) are among the constituents of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

"When the voting was completed, there was only a difference of around 50 votes (288-232). Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar have supported PM Modi out of fear, but how will they face the people when they go for elections after four months?" Jaleel asked.

NDA-ruled Bihar is scheduled to go to polls later in the year.

For the BJP, Naidu and Kumar's support was crucial in ensuring the bill's passage in the Lok Sabha, as unlike the first two terms of its tenure, the saffron party does not have a majority of its own in the House. Muslim bodies were pressuring the two leaders against backing the bill, citing the community's support for their parties.

Lok Sabha passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in early hours of Thursday, after a marathon debate which began at noon on Wednesday. The legislation is now being debated in the Rajya Sabha and is expected to pass there as well. It will then be sent to President Droupadi Murmu and become a law upon her assent.



## **Torture in police custody continues to plague India's justice system**

India must enact a law against torture, ratify the UN Convention, and take effective steps to insulate the police from external pressures as mandated by the Supreme Court

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/torture-police-custody-plague-india-justice-system-9922120/>

Common Cause, a reputed NGO, in collaboration with the Lokniti Programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), released a comprehensive report on police torture and (un)accountability on March 26. It explores the nature, causes and factors that contribute to the perpetuation of police violence and torture in India. The study is based on interactions with 8,276 police personnel of different ranks across 17 states and union territories. The findings of the study bring out some very disturbing features. There are, however, some redeeming features as well.

Torture has been defined in the UN Convention (1984) as “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.” India signed the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in 1997 but has not ratified it, which means it is legally not binding on India.

The report brings out that 20 per cent of the police personnel feel that it is “very important” for the police to use “tough methods” to create fear amongst the public and another 35 per cent think it is “somewhat important.” In other words, 55 per cent of police personnel favour tough methods to some degree. Significantly, they have not talked of torture. What these tough methods are and at what stage they assume the dimensions of torture have not been clarified in the report.

In cases involving sexual harassment and child lifting, one in four police personnel justify mob violence, implying that they do not mind mobs acting as the judge, jury and executioner in such cases. Another disturbing finding is that 22 per cent of police personnel believe that killing “dangerous criminals” is better than giving them a legal trial. But, it is also a fact that 74 per cent police personnel are of the view that “no matter how dangerous a criminal is, the police should try to catch them and try to follow proper legal procedures.” In matters of arrest, although 41 per cent police personnel said that the procedures are “always” adhered to, 24 per cent said that they are “rarely or never” adhered to. Kerala, where 94 per cent said “always”, reported the highest compliance.

On the use of third-degree methods, 30 per cent of police personnel said that these are justified towards the accused in serious criminal cases. Surprisingly, 9 per cent justified these methods even in petty offences. The victims of torture are, unfortunately, mostly from poor and marginalised communities. The groups generally

targeted are Adivasis, Dalits and Muslims, people who cannot read and write, and slum dwellers.

Custodial deaths showed discrepancies in figures furnished by different agencies. Thus, in the year 2020, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported 76 cases, while the National Human Rights Commission reported 70 cases. The National Campaign Against Torture (NCAT), a civil society initiative, documented 111 cases. It was a shocking revelation that during 2018-22 there were zero convictions for deaths in police custody.

An encouraging part of the report is where the researchers found that an overwhelming 79 per cent of police personnel favour training in human rights, 71 per cent recommended prevention of torture and 79 per cent supported evidence-based interrogation techniques.

The report says that there was consensus among lawyers and judges that confessions to the police should never be made inadmissible. It is worthwhile placing on the record that the Malimath Committee had suggested that confessions made before a senior police officer of the rank of Superintendent or above should be admissible in evidence with safeguards to prevent coercion. The Law Commission of India had also, in its 69th Report (1977), proposed introducing Section 26A in the Indian Evidence Act to make confessions before senior police officers admissible.

The study included in-depth interviews with doctors, lawyers and judges also whose jobs involve interacting with the police and those in custody. It was "very rare" to see magistrates interacting with arrested persons. In fact, one lawyer described magistrates as "silent spectators" who "do not record anything or ask where and when they were arrested." The doctors pointed out that medical examinations of arrested persons were often done by doctors without expertise in forensic medicine; there were instances of such examinations being done by an eye specialist or anesthesiologist.

The study, in fact, found fault with all the concerned agencies for incidents of torture. The police are, of course, the main culprit. The magistrates contribute by playing a passive role; the doctors by not deputing specialists who could identify signs of torture. The National Human Rights Commission has been criticised for not defining torture and for its "coloured attitude" towards the victims of torture.

A serious lacuna in the report is that it has not made any observations on the factors that contribute to the use of torture in the Indian context. Very briefly, these are: A continuation of the colonial police culture, for which there is no justification, the near absence of accountability, pressure from the political masters and even senior officers for quick results, inadequate training, and public support for short-cut solutions because of the failure of the criminal justice system to deliver within a time-frame.

Torture is, sadly, practised by police forces across the world. The most sophisticated and brutal techniques are used by the police in the US. Guantanamo Bay gained worldwide notoriety for its inhuman treatment of detenus. Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison highlighted the brutal methods used in the interrogation of terror suspects. About Russia, China and Pakistan, the less said, the better.

This is, however, not to justify the use of torture under any circumstances. India must enact a law against torture, ratify the UN Convention, and take effective steps to insulate the police from external pressures as mandated by the Supreme Court. Such measures will lead to police becoming humane and professional, upholding the rule of law, respecting human rights and winning over the trust and confidence of the people.

The writer, a retired Police Chief, has been campaigning for police reforms for nearly three decades

## राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के स्पेशल मानीटर ने किया जेल का निरीक्षण

गुरुग्राम: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार  
आयोग के स्पेशल मानीटर बालकृष्ण  
गोयल ने बृहस्पतिवार को जिला  
कारागार का निरीक्षण किया। उन्होंने  
कारागार में महिला और पुरुष बंदियों  
का हालचाल जानने के साथ ही उनसे  
जेल में दी जा रही सुविधाओं और  
जेल प्रशासन के व्यवहार के बारे में  
जाना। गोयल ने रसोई गृह का  
निरीक्षण कर कारागार में उपलब्ध  
कराए जा रहे भोजन के बारे में भी  
जानकारी हासिल की। निरीक्षण के  
दौरान स्पेशल मानीटर ने सभी  
कैदियों के स्वास्थ्य की नियमित जांच  
करने के निर्देश दिए। इस दौरान  
उन्होंने सोहना खंड के गांव मंडावर में  
स्थित वृद्धाश्रम का दौरा कर वहां दी  
जा रही सेवाओं व सुविधाओं का  
जायजा लिया। वृद्धाश्रम संचालन से  
जुड़े पदाधिकारियों से गोयल ने कहा  
कि ये वे लोग हैं, जिनको उनके  
परिवार वालों ने स्वीकारा नहीं है।  
इस दौरान किशोर न्याय बोर्ड के  
सदस्य रंजीत सिंह, पीओ निशा  
सेनी, सीडब्ल्यूसी सदस्य उषा  
सोलंकी व उपासना सचदेव एवं  
सीडीपीओ मुनेश मौजूद रहे। (जन्त)